

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 40, 44, 53-55, 67, 70, 76, 79, 81, and 83. Claim 70 has been amended to better define the invention. Claims 29, 31, 33, 35, 65, 72-75, 78, 80, 82, and 84 have been canceled. Withdrawn claim 77 has also been canceled without prejudice to its presentation in a divisional application. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the specification on pages 22-25, 35, and 41-42 and in FIGS. 12-13 and 16 of Applicants' drawings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Examiner withdrew claim 77 as being directed to a non-elected invention.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's Restriction of claim 77, and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have canceled claim 77.

Claim 84 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing the enablement requirement.

Without conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have

canceled claim 84 without prejudice so that this rejection is obviated.

Claims 29, 31, 33, 35, "66" (presumably claim 65 instead of claim 66 as claim 66 had been previously canceled), 72-75, 78, 80, and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by *Tanzer et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0009144*. No prior art rejection was made, however, of any of claims 40, 44, 53-55, 67, 70, 76, 79, 81, and 83, and the Examiner indicated that these claims are allowed.

Applicants have nevertheless amended independent claim 70 to specify that the selected set of the plurality of spot-shaped carriers of the fastening tape includes "identical strip-shaped spots". Claims 53-55 refer directly or indirectly to the fastening tape according to claim 70 and therefore also incorporate this clarification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claim 70 do not affect its patentability over the cited references and its allowability and also do not affect the patentability over the cited references and the allowability of claims 53-55. Specifically, amended claim 70 and claims 53-55 still include the

feature of the adhesive layer including at least first and second adhesives extending respectively over the first and second longitudinal portions of the fastening carrier. The Examiner indicated in the October 20, 2011 Office Action that *Tanzer et al.* was the closest prior art of record and that *Tanzer et al.* fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection of claims 29, 31, 33, 35, 65, 72-75, 78, 80, and 82 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by *Tanzer et al.* and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have canceled claims 29, 31, 33, 35, 65, 72-75, 78, 80, and 82.

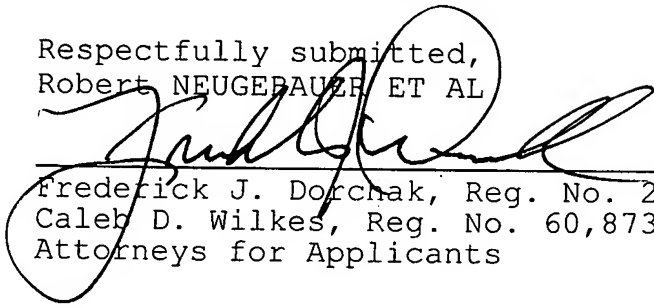
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 70, together with claims 40, 44, 67, and 79 which depend directly or indirectly thereon, and claims 53-55, 76, 81, and 83 are in condition for allowance.

In summary, claim 70 has been amended, claims 29, 31, 33, 35, 65, 72-75, 78, 80, 82, and 84 have been canceled, and

withdrawn claim 77 has also been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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